

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER SECTO 1055)

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 016251

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SYRIANS ABOUT PLA MOVEMENTS

REF: STATE 14281

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. ALTHOUGH THE SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORT IN LEBANON MAY HAVE PRODUCED SOME INITIAL SUCCESS, SOMEWHAT OVERTAKING THE URGENCY IN MAKING YOUR APPROACH ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF PLA MOVEMENTS FROM SYRIA INTO LEBANON, IT REMAINS NECESSARY TO PUT THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONCERN ON RECORD WITH THE SYRIANS. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED KING HUSSEIN AND THE ISRAELIS THAT WE HAD INSTRUCTED YOU TO DO SO. IN ADDITION, IT MAY HAVE VALUE WITH REGARD TO SUCCEEDING STAGES OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. WE CONTINUE TO PREFER THAT THIS APPROACH BE MADE PERSONALLY TO SHIHABI, BECAUSE THIS IS THE CHANNEL YOU HAVE BEEN USING REGULARLY IN REGARD TO THE LEBANESE SITU-

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ATION AND BECAUSE WE HAVE JUDGED IT SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT

TO THE ASAD LEVEL AT THIS JUNCTURE. IN ANY EVENT, SHIHABI
WOULD CERTAINLY PASS ITS SUBSTANCE TO ASAD.

3. IF IT APPEARS THAT SHIHABI WILL NOT RETURN TO DAMASCUS
IN TIME FOR YOU TO SEE HIM AT SOME TIME ON THURSDAY,
JANUARY 22, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY THE PRINCIPAL
POINTS IN THE APPROVED APPROACH TO A TRUSTED OFFICER IN
SHIHABI'S OFFICE OR TO ASAD'S PRIVATE SECRETARY. ROBINSON

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NNN

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